

Job 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Analysis

Eliphaz praises God: 'Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number.' The Hebrew 'gadol' (great), 'ein chequer' (unsearchable—no investigation), and 'pele' (marvellous/wonderful) acknowledge God's incomprehensible wisdom. This is true theology—God's ways transcend human understanding (Romans 11:33). Ironically, Eliphaz uses this truth to support false conclusions. The fact that God's ways are unsearchable should humble us from dogmatic pronouncements about others' suffering, not embolden them.

Historical Context

Hymnic praise of divine incomprehensibility appears throughout ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature. Eliphaz's doxology follows conventional patterns but applies the truth wrongly.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the doctrine of God's incomprehensibility affect how you counsel suffering people?
2. In what ways should God's unsearchable wisdom make us hesitant to explain others' trials definitively?

Interlinear Text

הַ	עֲשֵׂה	נְדָבָר	גְּדוֹלָה	וְ	אֵין	אֵין	מְלֹא	נְדָבָר	תְּכִלָּה	עֲדָת
Which	doeth	great	things	and	unsearchable				marvellous	things
H6213	H1419			H369		H2714		H6381		H5704
אֵין		מְלֹא								
and	unsearchable		without	number						
H369		H4557								

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 40:5 (Parallel theme): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Job 9:10 (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Psalms 72:18 (Parallel theme): Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

Psalms 86:10 (Parallel theme): For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Job 37:5 (Parallel theme): God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

Romans 11:33 (Parallel theme): O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Isaiah 40:28 (Parallel theme): Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Psalms 139:18 (Parallel theme): If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Job 42:3 (Parallel theme): Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

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